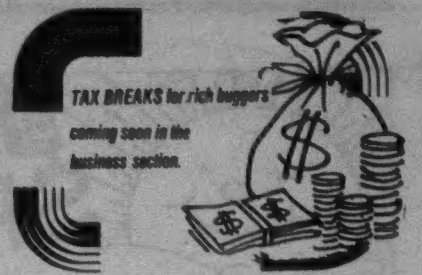


*the* Coming soon...  
*prairie*  
*surp*

# The Grope and Flail

146th POMPOUS YEAR, NO. 43,455 ■ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989



## REPORT ON BUSINESS

### Free Trade

It's great. So fuck you if you didn't vote PC ..... B1

### Building Futures

Real estate markets are booming in remote regions of western Toronto and other outlying regions ..... B2

### Computer Report

How to spend lots of money, get less done, impress all your important business friends with the worst popular computers for your corporation ... C1-C99

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is my theory, and it belongs to me. It is mine, and belongs only to me. Ahem... my theory is that Canadian economics is complicated"  
— Pope candidate Dave T. Upper on the Herald "I'm obnoxious" Rivera Show.

### SPORT

### Labatts Blue Report

Leafs say wait until next year. Jays win one; at this rate they'll be 162-0 ..... A10

### ENTERTAINMENT

### Scintillating Risibility

Bill and Ted depart on an enlightening journey of historic epics ..... A5

### YOUR MORNING SMILE

Wherever you go, there you are  
— Buckaroo Banzai

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Boredom ..... Q99  
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Toronto Supplement ..... Z1  
More Toronto ..... A1

## Prairie earthquake disaster

BY PAMELA POMPOUS  
The Grope and Flail

Three suburbs of Toronto were ravaged yesterday by a massive earthquake which registered 9.5 on the Richter scale. British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and their populations, were sucked into the Pacific ocean in this minor disaster. Several thousand people are estimated drowned.

Rescue workers are already at the scene of the earthquake, and are working to provide first aid to survivors. They do not, however, predict that their efforts will be very successful. "We came too late," said one paramedic. "This is a long way from Toronto."

Mr. Brian Mulroney, Prime  
QUAKE Page A2

## Ministers missing; War measures enacted

BY PETTI PATRONAGE  
The Grope and Flail

### TORONTO

While attempting to reorganize a flailing federal cabinet, Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Brian Mulroney has lost at least two western ministers in the shuffle.

PM Mr. Mulroney enacted the War Measures Act late Tuesday in hopes of finding Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Clark and Agriculture Minister Don Mazinkowski the two ministers lost in the

cabinet shuffle.

"I forgot why I started shuffling, then stopped to ponder this unusual thing and started asking myself what is a cabinet shuffle anyway, then suddenly there were ministers all over the place nobody knew what was going on," PM Mr. Mulroney said, adding he doesn't know what good the War Measures Act will do. "I heard it was the thing to do in times of emergency, so I followed the trend," he said.

Although PM Mr. Mulroney

has called an emergency meeting set for June 6 to discuss the situation with the remaining members of cabinet, he said he is not overly worried and concerned about the situation. "Well I think those guys were from out west somewhere anyway. I think from that place... uhhh Alberta... yahh, and so they weren't too useful. I mean really who cares about farms and stuff, and Mr. Clark well he probably wants my job or something," PM Mr. Mulroney said.

Mr. Clark's wife Ms. Maureen

McTeer said she last saw her husband shortly after he heard a cabinet shuffle was planned. "He left in search of dance lessons... He's never been good at this shuffle thing."

Meanwhile, PM Mr. Mulroney has said there is no time for looking back or remorse, it is a time to move forward.

However, Minister of Unintentional Trade John Crosby said going forward is not the only option for the Progressive Conservative Federal government. "We could sidestep, retreat, waffle, stand still or go in several directions at once."

Advanced Minister of Cultural Evasion Pat Carney said she is not competent to say which direction the government should go. "I still haven't figured out which way is up," she said.

Otto Jelinick, whose portfolio was lost in the shuffle, was unavailable for comment. The important minister was, however, last seen going in his own direction.

PM Mr. Mulroney said if nothing on this eminent and important issue can be decided at the June 6 emergency meeting, it will again be discussed at the next emergency meeting scheduled for Nov. 10, 1989.

WAR Page A10

## VIA WAITING



Prairie passengers in the western community of Edmonton anticipate Via Rail taking them to points east where a better life awaits.

## Showdown looms over transportation rivals

BY DR. KLAU  
The Grope and Flail

Via Rail Canada Inc. and its western rival, the intercity stagecoach industry, are heading for a showdown over Via's federally subsidized pricing policies and marketing strategies.

It's a dispute the stagecoach companies say could end up in court if National Transportation Agency (NTA) chairman Erik Schmielson rules today that Via does not have to tell their secrets. A court case could seriously tie up the NTA probe into Via's operations and a subsequent government decision on whether to shut down the passenger railway.

According to Jon Wayne, spokesman for the Stagecoach

Industry Association (SIA), Via uses its federal subsidy to undercut stagecoach fares and siphon off passengers from the stagecoach industry. For years, the SIA has been calling for a federal probe of Via's pricing policies and how it uses its federal subsidy of about \$600 million annually.

Wayne contends Via uses unfair marketing practices to draw customers away from the stagecoach industry. "They hire people in three piece suits to ride our stagecoaches and then complain to the other passengers about the lousy ride and service, telling everyone they should have booked with Via," said Wayne, adding, "We lose more customers that way."

Wayne also contends Via uses its federal subsidies to offer cheaper rates than stagecoaches

and subsidies help Via maintain repair costs on its fleet.

"It's hard to compete with Via's pricing policy, and we can't compete with repair costs because we don't get a federal subsidy," Wayne said. He noted that stagecoach repairs can be extravagant because craftsmen are hard to find. "Not very many people can repair wagon wheels any more," he said.

The SIA has been lobbying Schmielson for years for their own federal subsidy, but Schmielson has consistently refused, saying the federal government does not want to flog a dead horse. Wayne takes exception to that line of thinking, saying "Buffalo chips".

FEUD Page A9

## Alberta citizens await retort

BY BIFF JERKEY

Grope and Flail Correspondent

### EDMONTON

With mud being slung frequently in this Alberta community, located 2,600 km north-west of Toronto, the citizens of Edmonton are eagerly awaiting Alberta Premier Don Getty's retort to Edmonton Oilers' owner Peter Pocklington's retort to Mr. Getty's retort to Mr. Pocklington comments of three weeks ago.

The saga began after the Alberta provincial election, when Mr. Getty failed to retain his seat in the Edmonton area constituency of Whitemud, losing to (yick) Liberal Percy Wickman.

A few days later, Mr. Pocklington made comments to the press, saying that he felt Mr. Getty lost because he had a bad public image.

"His public relation skills are the shits," said Mr. Pocklington. "He's known better for his savoir-faire in politics."

Soon after, Mr. Getty responded  
RETORT Page A2



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## Government retorts retorting retort

continued from p 1

to Mr. Pocklington's comments, saying: "That shit-head! Why do they quote him in political matters? He's goofy! And who does he think he is saying I have bad p.r.? The entire city hates him for trading The Great One! And no one, not even his employees, will eat his weenees anymore!"

Mr. Pocklington, upon hearing Mr. Getty's retort, was quite upset. He, in turn, said that his weenees were good, and that Mr. Getty had nerve insulting him, adding, "What? Does he think he's a perfect politician and person and should never be criticized? I mean who does he think he is - Dave Tupper?"

These comments were made several days ago, and now people and press (especially press) are waiting for Mr. Getty's continuation of the war of words.

Because it has taken Mr. Getty several days to respond, the Grope and Flail was wondering if Mr. Getty needed some help thinking of a come-back. If this happens to be true, Mr. Getty, we're offering a few suggestions:

"Oh, yeah? At least I don't walk like I have a hockey puck shot up my ass, Pocklington!"

"Oh, yeah? At least I don't have the breath of a buffalo!"

"Dave who?"

GOV page A14

## Old hacks size-up young urbanes

BY T.O. RONTO

The Grope and Flail

Finance Minister Michael Wilson yesterday targeted yuppies and yuppies-in-training as sacrificial puppies in the coming austerity program to reduce the national debt.

"MBA programs in Canadian universities will be trashed and wage controls will be imposed on all MBA degree holders," Mr. Wilson announced, "as those people are making too much damned money."

Since business is going to face higher taxes with the rest of Canada, Mr. Wilson sees their logical remedy would be to put the heat on their overpaid MBA's and relieve them of a few of their toys, like those darn yogurt machines and those pretentious stuffed leather armadillos... and how many Italian suits does one of these guys need, anyways?"

As the news broke that a salary ceiling of \$25,000 would be imposed on all MBA graduates of

the last 10 years, much wailing and gnashing of teeth was heard echoing through the halls of Canada's business schools.

U of A business grad Desiree Riche told this reporter, "Damn, there goes my Jaguar. And how the hell am I going to pay for my liposuction treatments?"

YUP page A14

## Parliamentary rock shakes Ottawa

BY MURRAY MOON

The Grope and Flail

Most of Canada's Members of Parliament headed into the last few minutes of last night's House of Commons session listening to Ehlvis and Jerry Lea Lewis in their earphones, broadcast live from the University of Alberta campus radio station CJSR.

Today, Mabel LaMessage, a ROCK page A13

More windy stuff we have to print lest we want to get sued — really!

BY PAMELA POMPOUS

The Grope and Flail

Toronto fire officials coaxed seven quivering student journalists off the CN Tower last night as they prepared to jump to a grisly death.

The students, editors of the University of Alberta newspaper *The Gateway*, had been devastated by an accusation that they misquoted a prominent member of their university's Students' Council in a front page article which appeared in last Thursday's issue.

"We couldn't live with the thought of telling an untruth, even an unintentional one," said Editor-in-Chief Dragos Uriuiu. "We came to a group decision that the only solution was to jump."

The seven editors, a short, slimy, mealy-mouthed lot carrying pens and notebooks, chose to jump from the Toronto tower as they felt their suicides would go unnoticed in the small suburb of Edmonton, where their university is located. "We wanted national coverage," said Randy Smatterings.

"We are doing this for the sake of journalistic integrity everywhere," said Jeff Crowley. "Let this be a message to all unethical purveyors of news."

The Students' Council member responsible for the editors' collective guilt is Chuck Vermin, Vice President Academic. "I am outraged that these lowlifes had the gall to misquote me," he said, visibly shaking. "I clearly said that I retracted a statement within my statement, not the entire statement."

GATEWAY page A15

## Mulroney mourns loss of Toronto suburb

continued from p 1

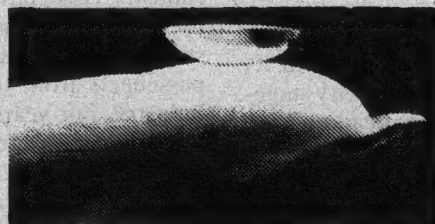
Minister of Toronto, will visit the disaster site when he returns from his Caribbean vacation next month. When called for comment, Mr. Mulroney said, "It's a sad, sad day for Toronto. But let's look at the positive side: at least this didn't happen in a major centre."

Meanwhile, Torontonians are scrambling to buy Manitoban beachfront property. "This is a dream come true, said Bay Street stockbroker Mr. Rich Mann. "I've always wanted to live in the suburbs, near the ocean, and commute to Bay Street. My wife, my two kids Haye and Hi, and my pooch Mulla are thrilled about it too."

QUAKE — page A13

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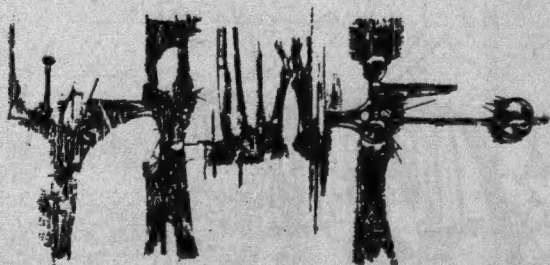
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## THE ARTS

## Deep philosophy from Bill &amp; Ted

Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure  
Bay-Bloor CineplexREVIEW BY PAMELA POMPOUS AND  
ARTSIE PREETENZ

The Grope and Flail

One is willing to suspend one's disbelief for the 90 minute duration of *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, one will find oneself in turn laughing uproariously at its subtle humour and pondering philosophically its profound thematic content; never for a moment does the film become at all tedious, repetitive or boring. Stellar performances are given by two promising young actors in this innovative new film which examines the problems so often faced by adolescents as they struggle to pass into adulthood: Alex Winter, as Bill, is appealing as a young man battling against his overbearing, domineering father: Ted, played by Keanu Reeves, is also exceptional as a boy in the throes of an Oedipal complex.

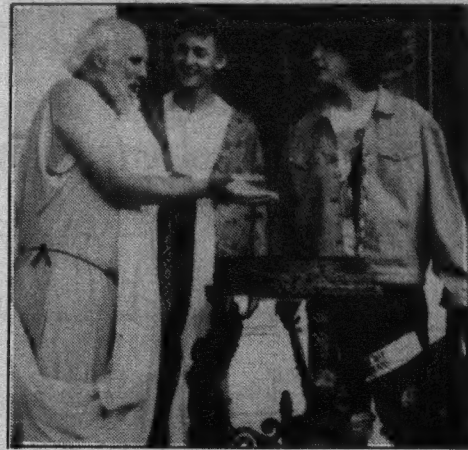
A number of famous literary and historical figures arise in this film; from the philosopher Socrates, of ancient Greece, to Sigmund Freud, the inventor of psychoanalysis. Through facetious portrayals of these figures, the film brings to light the misconceptions which our youth hold of those who have shaped history; sadly, it reveals the ignorance common to school-children whose greatest interest is the opposite sex and whose only ambition is to star in a rock band. Bill and Ted pronounce Freud's name "Frood" and Socrates' with the emphasis on the middle syllable; this points to the fact that our society must redouble its efforts to educate its youth.

One of the film's most interesting and significant attributes is its use of symbolic imagery, the most blatant of which is the phallic corn dog which Freud points menacingly at two young, blossoming women in the shopping mall. The AT&T phone booth, in which Bill and Ted travel, is again a Freudian psychodynamic image, signifying a womb in which the characters are forced to curl in the fetal position. When Bill and Ted journey into their future, the characters whom they meet in the domelike structure wear gowns and sunglasses, thus fulfilling their infantile desire to imitate their mothers. Bill and Ted themselves attempt to pursue their ego ideal, represented by Van Halen, the contemporary popular pseudo-musical band whose members operate only according to the impulses of their id.

Each character in this film has a clear, purposeful function delineated by the director, who is, by the way, a pure genius

at the art. They are all dramatically engaging, acting their roles with clarity, precision and energy. Joan of Arc stands for womanhood everywhere: as she watches the vivacious, dictatorial aerobics slavedriver, she becomes overwhelmed by her own desire to lead the women, finally losing control and pushing her rival unceremoniously off the pedestal.

Mongolian rebel leader Ghengis Khan expresses impotent, frustrated rage which suddenly bursts out as he seemingly calmly browses through a sporting goods store. Viciously, inhumanly, coldly, he fatally swats a mannequin until it is left to a tragic end, a mere shell of its former self. At the same time, classical composer Beethoven wreaks havoc in a music equipment store as he creatively adapts his piano pieces to synthesizer.



Bill and Ted with Socrates: not your typical vacuous American youth, interested only in the opposite sex

One of the most poignant moments of the film occurs when Bill and Ted save Billy the Kid, a mythic cowboy hero, from perishing at the hands of uncivilized Western louts. Billy demonstrates his eternal gratitude by assisting Bill and Ted in cleverly and adeptly capturing other famous philosophical and historical personalities. Napoleon, the French leader of the 18th century, is mocked, ridiculed and likened to a swine in the scene in which he discovers the joys of the American ice cream parlour. This typifies the uninformed, biased opinion Americans have of other cultures. How unfortunate that the glorious Napoleon could not have been portrayed in a more respectful manner. Americans truly need a lesson in history.

The quintessential moment of this film occurs when Billy the Kid and Ted convince Socrates to accompany them into the future. Ingeniously using the analogy of dust in the wind, Ted relates to Socrates on a powerful, nonverbal level. Socrates' message is not only passed along to his followers in ancient Greece, but to modern-day high school students whose lives are sadly lacking philosophically prior to Bill and Ted's dissertation.

Let us not forget to mention the unique costumes, the spectacular special effects

## Benefit for the dead by the dead

BY NEIL ISTIC

The Grope and Flail

Another mega-concert, to hit North American venues early next year, is now in the planning stages. The concert, tentatively titled "Dead Aid," is planned to raise money for lost souls now bitterly imprisoned in purgatory.

Benefit organizer Shirley Maclaine says the concert will be the first of its kind ever, featuring such famous names as Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and Keith Moon. Maclaine wants to first conjure up these spirits during a massive seance to be held at the Houston Astrodome. "The Texas climate will make most of the musicians feel more at home," she explains.

Stealing a page from pre-reformation theological doctrine, Maclaine hopes that with the proceeds from the concert she will be able to purchase enough indulgences to spring literally millions of souls from purgatory — souls that are now in limbo, torn between heaven and hell. "I just got off the horn with the Pope yesterday, Maclaine reveals, "he seems to think that if we can raise enough money to build a new Basilica in Managua, we might just be able to reach our set target of a million souls. I'm following his advice because, after all, who am I to argue with the Pope?"

Several contacts have already been made. Hendrix and Morrison are genuinely perplexed as to the reason Burton isn't with them right now. "I mean he can play base ten times better than Sid," says Morrison. "I think the Big Guy's just trying to make him sweat a little. I should know, I've been there before." Hendrix had little else to add, except that he's been miraculously cured of his manic depression, and that he's now enjoying the best purple haze he has yet experienced. Wedged firmly between two foxy ladies, he said, "I was only joking when I said 'let me stand next to your fire.'"

accentuated by futuristic music, and the captivating cinematography apparent in this film. It is the absolute pinnacle of the modern-day cultural and intellectual experience of movie-going. The final scene of the film, in which Bill and Ted discover their true potential, is awe-inspiring, although it could be more moving. Finally, good/rock/future/youth triumphs over bad/classical/past/age in this stunning *piece de resistance*.

A bitter Sid Vicious is upset by how quickly Morrison and Hendrix have forgotten about him. "That stuff about me not being able to play bass is bollocks," he pouts. "They'll never make it unless they do it my way! How I wish I could get out of here. Nancy's driving me crazy! I thought I'd be rid of her after I killed her, and now she lives down the block! All I hear all day is 'Siiiiiiid...' If I hear 'Siiiiiiid' one more time I'll go insane. I'll get you Malcolm!"

But apart from the affirmative responses of Morrison and Hendrix, things aren't going as smoothly as Maclaine had hoped they would. "We're having a little trouble locating Elvis," she says, "word on the cloud has it that he's still down here with us. And even though I'd like him to perform, if he's not dead I have no use for him."

Also noticeably absent from the bill is ex-Beatle John Lennon. Speaking to me from his home at 666 Lucifer Drive, Lennon had this to say: "I'm morally opposed to this concert. First of all, the whole idea of purgatory is absurd, and I don't believe in God, Satan, heaven, or hell. Phew, is it hot in here! Will this heat never let up? And besides, I've already told the organizers I wanted top billing, but they tell me I'm no longer more popular than He is."

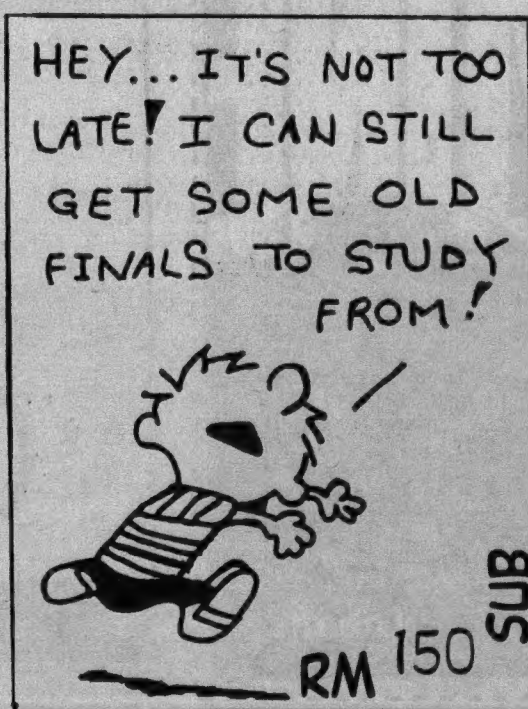
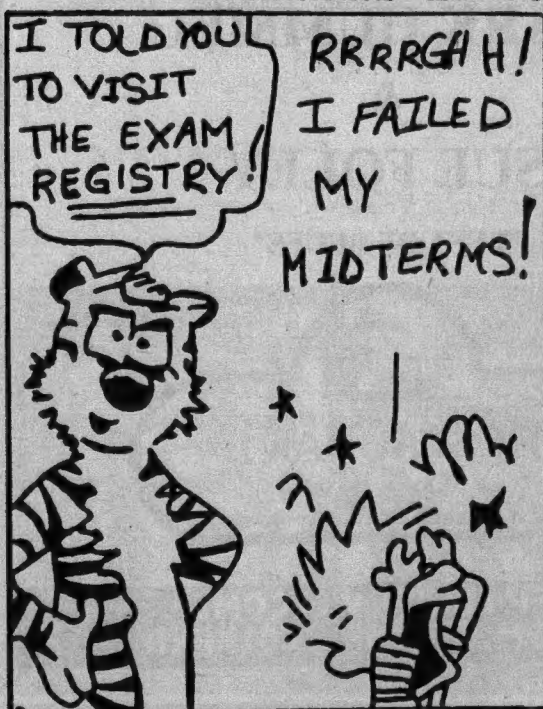
On a more positive note, it appears that Maclaine has come close to signing drummer Keith Moon. "There are just a few details yet to be worked out," she explains. "Before Keith will play he wants a guarantee that he will receive an upgrade in living accommodations. Apparently his flat is too hot right now, and the air-conditioner is always broken."

The only major obstacle yet to overcome is Satan. "Heck ya, I oppose this concert he exclaims. "I don't want to lose any more souls than the next devil. If this concert goes, I demand compensation. I didn't invest all my money in PRSPs (purgatory retirement savings plans) for nothing. What if they get Cliff Burton? Then all I'm stuck with is that pouting baby Sid Vicious. Is that fair?"

Maclaine, however, isn't afraid of Satan. Confronted by the possibility that Satan might want her soul in return for his permission, Maclaine responds, "that smoky little misfit couldn't negotiate his way out of a wet paper bag. He seems to forget that he's dealing with the power of harmonic convergence here. He's out of his league."

So with just a few details left to iron out, a spirited Maclaine is confident that the concert will be a go. "I had some reservations when I first conceived this project," she explains. "But when Roy Orbison died all my doubts evaporated. I simply had to organize this concert. They have more talented musicians over there than we have over here."

## THE EXAM REGISTRY



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## TORONTO

## Toronto is the centre of the universe

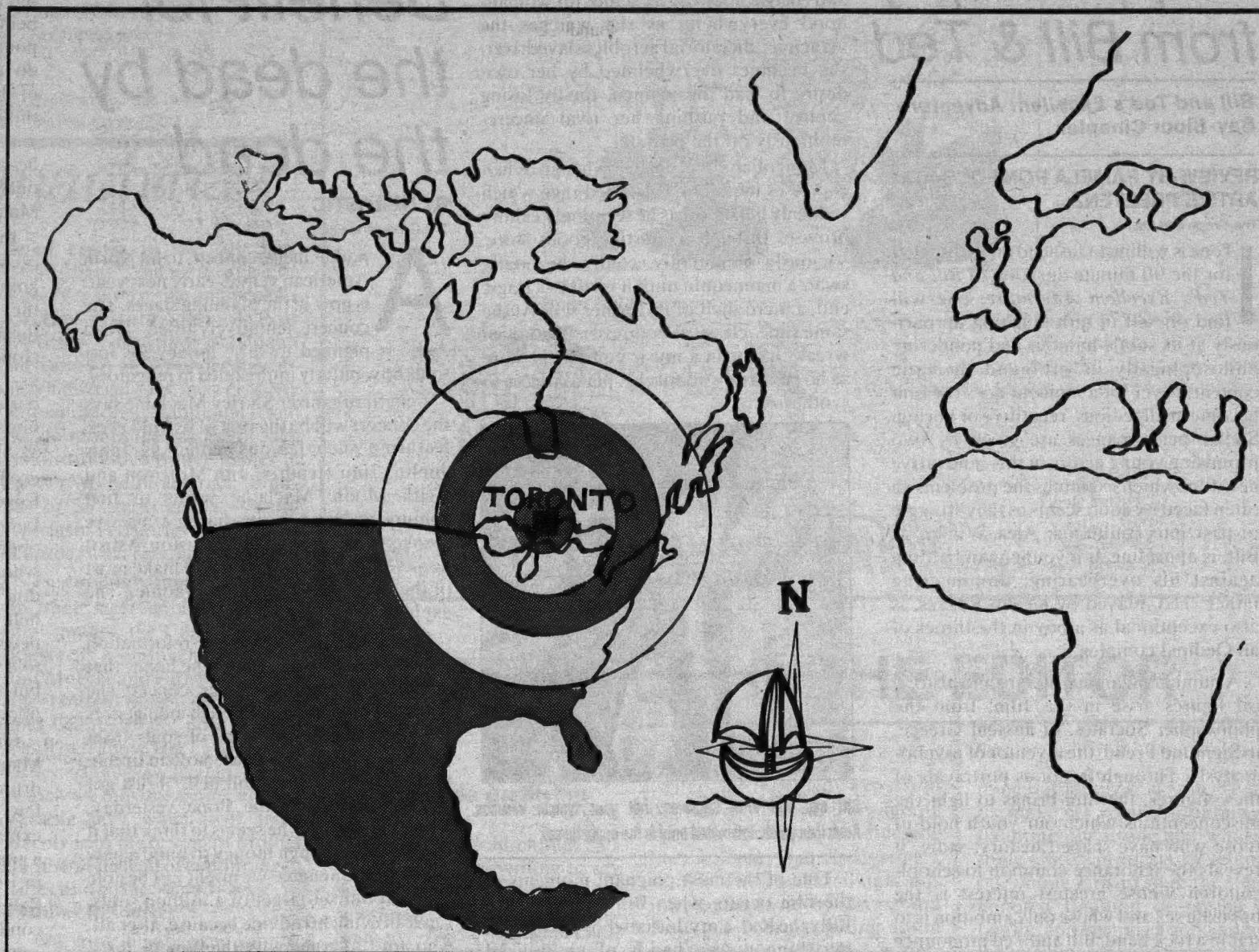
BY PAMELA POMPOUS  
AND PETTI PATRONAGE

The Grope and Flail

Amid controversy, heated debate, disagreement and dispute at the United Nations Assembly somewhere outside of Toronto this week, representatives from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), France (F), and the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) finally agreed to accept the undeniable fact that Toronto is indeed the centre of the universe.

Proof of Toronto's centrality has been known to the University of Toronto's world-renowned and world famous researching team for decades, but previously scientists outside of Canada's only metropolis refused to swallow the bitter pill. "It's time the world's scientists had a taste of their own medicine," said Toronto researcher Dr. Eye Nowittall. "For centuries Torontonians scientific knowledge has not been sufficiently recognized in the world's other countries. Now they must realize that they are mere sheep, and will be forced to follow the brilliant shepherds being produced at the world's only significant institution of scientific learning."

Scientific representatives at the United Nations Assembly were overwhelmed by the wealth of scientific data produced and evidenced by the much revered University of Toronto team. "We can no longer hide behind the feeble data gathered by our bogus teams of researchers who continue to follow antiquated systems of analysis," said Dr. Lait Homogenized, speaking on behalf of the Pasteurized Institute in Paris, a town several thousand miles outside of Toronto. Pseudo-researchers from the previously afore-



mentioned countries — the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the United States of America (US), the United Kingdom (UK), France (F), and China (C) — agreed with Dr. Homogenized, who is a direct descendant of and related to Dr. Louis Pasteurized, who achieved slight fame despite his shortcoming of not being a Toronto native.

This new and now undisputed discovery has shaken the very foundations of the earth. The president of the United States of America (USA), Mr. George Bush, said: "This is a black day in the formerly long and illustrious history of this once kinder and gentler nation. Our flags will be flying at half-mast today. Tomorrow, we will remove them and replace them with

Torontonian flags." In a referendum vote after the United Nations Assembly, Americans voted unanimously to be absorbed into the boundaries of Toronto. Former acting president of the United States of America, Mr. Ronald Reagan, and his cohort, Mr. Bonzo, had this to say: "It's... well... good and interesting, but unfortunately... I fail to see anything which

resembles anything... Nancy, where's the black jelly beans... and anyway, it's sad and boring, but the month is almost over... oh, well... what? Toronto... TTTTTT."

The Queen of England, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Second, said that herself, along with other members of the Royal family and the Buckingham Palace guards, were

## Canadian Rock History Challenge by Labatt's

Formed in 1972, this band gained quite a reputation in the club scene of the "Pacific Northwest." The nucleus, two sisters, and the rest of the group moved their base of operations to Vancouver from their home town of Seattle and were signed to a record contract in 1975. Their debut album "Dreamboat Annie" was released later that year, and singles released from this disc, "Crazy On You" (June), "Magic Man" (August) and "Dreamboat Annie" (December) were all well received and the album sold platinum in both Canada and the U.S.

Artistic and financial concerns resulted in a lengthy legal battle with their record company, and the group switched labels. Their original label went on to release the album "Magazine" while the band and their new label released "Little Queen" in 1977. The singles released were "Barracuda", "Kick It Out", and the title track "Little Queen."

In September '78 the single "Straight On" was released, and the LP "Dog and Butterfly" came out in early 1979. By this time, the band had returned to the U.S.A. and used a variety of musicians while maintaining the core of the Seattle sisters.

A new record label in 1980 and the album "BeBe le Strange" was issued, followed by a live/greatest hits package that went Top Ten in the U.S. and Top Five in Canada. The next two albums, "Private Audition" and "Passion Works" were not big sellers and the band took a break to regroup.

In 1985 a self titled album was released and the single "What About Love" went Top Five. Their renewed success was augmented with the album "Bad Animals" released in 1987 and "Alone" became their first #1 single in Canada. Other singles from that LP were "Who Will You Run To" and "There's the Girl."

Researched by D.W. Lawrie

NOW... if you can correctly name this Canadian Rock Band you could win:  
1 Labatt's Blue Mystery Prize!

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YOUR NAME: .....

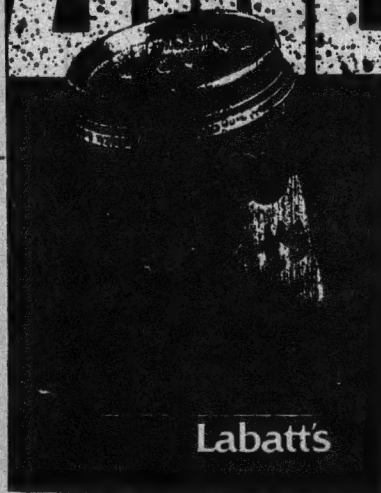
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## ENTER THE

# BLUE ZONE



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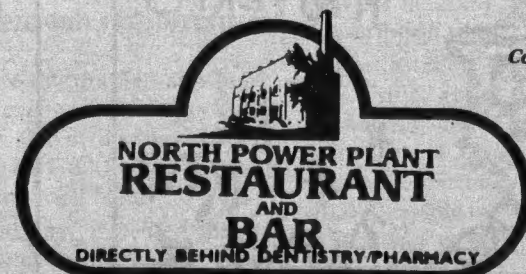
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&

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delighted by the glorious news. "I must plan a tea party immediately for the honourable scientists from the University of Toronto," she exclaimed delightedly. "We will serve cucumber and watercress sandwiches and scones, with tea cakes as a special treat."

Besides the tea party, other plans are on H.R.H. the Queen of England's agenda. "We shall proceed to relocate Buckingham Palace to Yonge Street in Toronto. My daughters-in-law would be very displeased if they could not buy their tea gowns in the most fashionable shops, which of course are found in the heart of the centre of the universe," she stated in her Royal speech from the throne. Meanwhile, Prime Minister of England Margaret Thatcher sobbed at her home in Downing Street. "I must step down," she said. "What am I to the country of England if I cannot keep a stiff upper lip?"

President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, was stunned by this week's revelation, but after much contemplation, deliberation, musings, and a conversation with his wife, Mrs. Raisa Gorbachev, Mr. Gorbachev announced the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. "We are proud to become a satellite nation of the world's greatest power, Toronto," he said with immense pride.

Mr. Brian Mulroney, the enlightened prime minister of the great land of Toronto, was confused and disoriented by the announcement. "I wasn't briefed," he said angrily and with emotion. "What does this mean for me? My sons? My wife? My dog? My country? Free Trade? My future in politics, dammit! I'm nowhere near competent enough to lead the universe, although I have the charisma and the deep enough voice for the job," said Mr. Mulroney while wagging his chin.

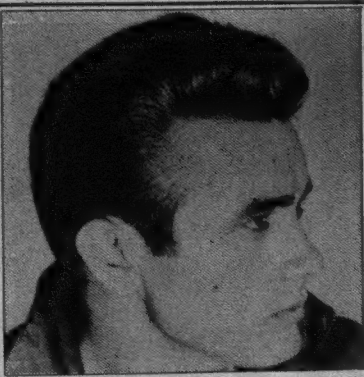
Liberal Toronto leader, Mr. John Turner, agreed with prime minister Mr. Brian Mulroney, saying, "Of course he's not capable of leading the universe! But by gosh, by golly, I have shown in my capacity as Liberal leader of the Liberal party my ability as a leader. If I can control that bunch of overzealous, uninfluential, uninspired morons in the Liberal party, I

can lead darn near anything, even TORONTO." Mr. Ed Broadbent, leader of the New Democratic Party, was not available for comment as he was walking the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) picket lines. "Silly me! I forgot to tell him the strike was over!", giggled Svelte Robinson, New Democrat Member of Parliament. When questioned on his opinion of Toronto's triumph, Mr. Robinson remarked: "I think it's absolutely wonderful! My hairdresser and I have discussed the situation at great length, and we decided on a new coiffe to celebrate the occasion."

Torontonians, including those residing in the suburb regions of Alberta (Alta.), British Columbia (B.C.), Manitoba (Man.), Saskatchewan (Sask.), Quebec (QB), Nova Scotia (NS), New Brunswick (NB), Newfoundland (Nfld.), Prince Edward Island (PEI), the Yukon (Yuk) and the Northwest Territories (NWT) and the tundra, are joining hands to toast this symbolic day for our civilization. It is the dawning of a new era, one which will establish the Torontonian empire as the most far-reaching in all of history.

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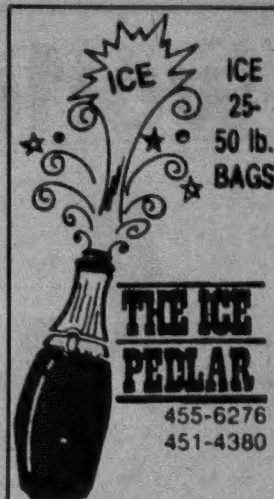
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## TRAVEL

## Western world breeds bizarre rituals

BY DAVID LIVINGSTON

The Grope and Flail

Go west, young Torontonian.

Located 64.3 degrees north of the equator and somewhat west of Toronto, Edmonton, jewel of the North American prairie, offers an interesting culture, as well as friendly people to meet and swell things to do.

Dr. Benny Sillin, a cultural scientist from the University of Toronto, has spent virtually years being indoctrinated into the bizarre rituals of the wild and woolly, but wonderfully wicked westerly region.

"The people of Edmonton lead a life which Torontonians could never imagine," said Dr. Sillin.

Dr. Sillin started his travel adventure by flying to Thunder Bay, where he was escorted by dog sled to the St. Paul UFO landing pad, and then bushwhacked 230 kilometres to Edmonton. After surviving the fifty-day journey, Dr. Sillin realized that the lengthy trip was worth it, as he found that Edmonton was a swell watering hole.

Dr. Sillin, who spent a year and a half in Edmonton studying the natives, said, "Edmonton is a delight. A pure delight." While the locals have only recently learned English, they have for some time converted from cannibalism and now live in permanent structures.

"We burnt down the igloo settlement many moons ago," said Edmonton's tribal leader Mr. Ookie-Ookie-Ookie-doon-da-Washington. "We were taught by a wandering missionary, before we ate him, how to build these big, strong wooden structures, and we call them condos."

Mr. Washington is an authority on this friendly, yet hostile land.

"We like people - especially



Above: Mr. Scooby-doby-doo-bee-doo Barnaby-Jones prepares for an evening of searching for featherless chickens to wrestle. Right: Mrs. Jaaaan-eee-wanie-wooboo Washington is shocked to find Mrs. Madonna-wannabe-wannabe Jones drinking in the barnyard again.



the plump, odorous kind served with ketchup and onion rings."

Mr. Washington estimates that his community has existed for some time since he knew his father and his grandfather. Although known as Mr. Trivia by his peers when it comes to Edmonton, Mr. Washington had difficulty estimating the population, and took off one sock, held up both hands, and said, "I think there is this many people here."

The economy of Edmonton is supported by many diverse industries. Wife-breeding and the baby-trade lead the way. Edmontonians

also depend on traditional buffalo-hunting. "Besides baby-trading, I am actively involved with the search for buffaloes. I hunt buffaloes. My father hunted buffaloes, my grand-father hunted buffaloes, and my great-great grand-grand grandmother's third son's second cousin's aunt's nephew hunted buffaloes," said Ms. Madonna-wanna-bewanna-bewanna-be Jones, noting she thought one had been caught once, sometime.

While in Edmonton, Dr. Sillin felt that the utmost most interesting activity he observed was the search for the elusive Edmonton

featherless chicken - to be used for featherless chicken wrestling.

Featherless chicken trainer Mr. Scooby-doby-doo-bee-doo Barnaby-Jones says, "Featherless chicken wrestling has been very-very good to me, or so I'm told." Jones then pondered what a featherless chicken might be.

Collecting rodent pelts is another amusing pursuit of these timid yet bold peoples. "I have many lovely pelts - all in various shades of mousey brown," said native Edmontonian Jaaaan-eee-wanie-wooboo Washington, wife and daughter of the tribal leader.

During his stay in this primitive and advanced land, Dr. Sillin compiled a travel itinerary for Torontonians looking for a true northern, western, regional and territorial and exotic, really neat adventure.

Where to stay: Trapper Inn

Where not to stay: The Bee Trapped Inn

Where to eat: Featherless Buffalo Bar and Grill

Where to be eaten: (Cannibalism is discouraged. Try not to feed the locals.)

How to get there: Plane, dog-sled, bushwhack.

What to take: Camera, film, babies (for swapping), featherless chickens.

What not to take: Your beloved ones, your will, your self.

Season suited for travel: Spring, catch the locals during the rut.

Travel notes: Get all your shots, leave a will, pack lightly.

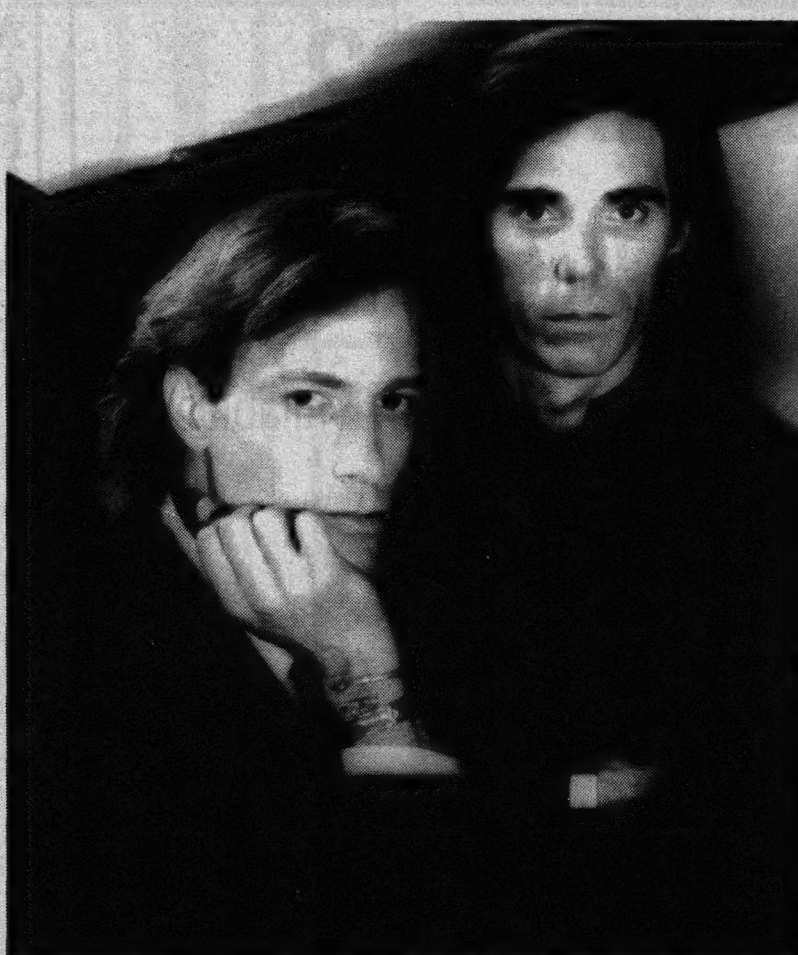
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Photo: Peter Horvath





Mr. and Mrs. Jones are off to a fun-filled Saturday afternoon of wife swapping at one of their bigger condos — West Edmonton Mall.



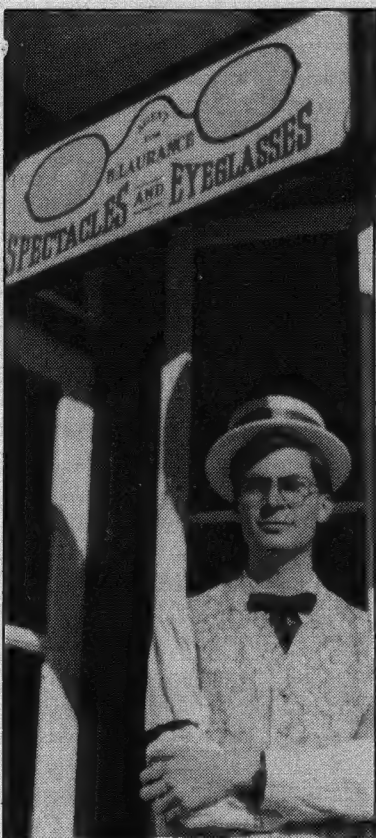
Mr. Ookie-Ookie-Ookie-Ookie-doon-da-wa Washington pointed out that his wife had impressively abstained from all forms of cannibalism since at least Tuesday.

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Edmontonians are uncertain about how long their community has been in existence. However, Mr. Ookie-Ookie-Ookie-doon-da Washington was able to determine his own age by lopping off one of his toes and counting the rings.

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## SPORT

## Johnson-Jonson light up inquiry with tales



The audience at the Dubin Inquiry couldn't take anymore of Ben Johnson's testimony.

BY BILL DALLAS

The Grope and Flail

The Dubin inquiry came to a climax yesterday as its star witness, shamed sprinter Ben Johnson, began his testimony with a bang.

He opened his testimony by admitting that he is the reincarnation literary giant Ben Jonson, who died over two hundred years ago. Jonson was known for stories like "Bartholomew Fair".

"When I died, I decided to become reincarnated as an athlete," said Johnson. "Unfortunately to do so, I lost much of my intelligence in the transference. I think that is why I got caught in Seoul."

"I was tired of that writing gig," he continued. "I'm certainly making more headlines for my stupidity as an athlete than for my pomposity as a writer."

Johnson also said that his whole

stable of agents, trainers, and lawyers were "carnies"—people who have been reincarnated.

"We carnies like to stick together," joked Johnson, who said that he is in his seventh life form. "You just can't trust you first timers." Johnson went on to say that Charlie Francis was previously the St. Francis of Assisi, and Dr. Mario Astaphan was Marilyn Monroe.

"Mario was tired of the blonde bombshell stereotype so he terminated his contract, went back to the nether regions and bought the contract for a Caribbean doctor," claimed Johnson. Astaphan was not available for comment.

Johnson justified his use of steroids by thinking he'd be the most famous reincarnated person who ever lived—twice.

"Many carnies can be famous once," says Johnson. "Shirley

MacLaine was nothing until this life. It really takes a lot of energy to be famous in two different time periods. If I would have won the gold medal, I would have been the most famous person in the nether regions.

When asked why Jonson's literary works, like Bartholomew Fair, haven't been received as well as others authors works, like William Shakespeare, Johnson came up with a quick answer.

"Shakespeare blew his wad," Johnson said. "He had enough talent for three of four lives of fame, but he blew it on a pompous poet gag who wrote suggestive tales. Heck, if he was a hockey player, he could have been a Gretzky. He was a one-life wonder."

I spread my fame out. Jonson was mediocre when compared with the best of his time, but I have created more fame than I ever believed," added Johnson.

## Ex-Leaf's Cup hopes excite T.O.

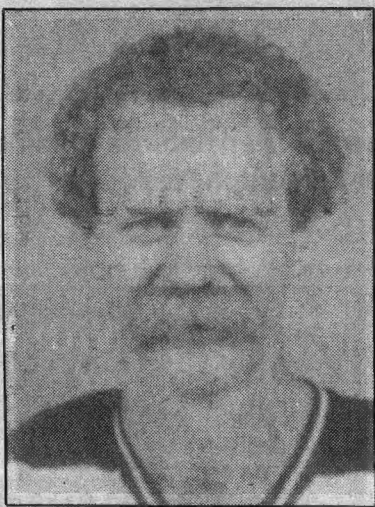
BY V.D. CARRIER

The Grope and Flail

Torontonians are all set for hoop-la and glory as an ex-Toronto Maple Leaf is on the verge of winning a Stanley Cup.

Lanny McDonald, who was traded from the Leafs in 1979, has scored at least one point en route to a Stanley Cup victory for the Calgary Flames. Calgary is somewhere west of the centre of the universe - Toronto.

The people of Toronto are very happy to see an ex-Maple Leaf in the playoffs. Said Pal Hal Harold Ballard, "What more can a old fart like me ask for? Lanny will probably maybe possibly win a Stanley Cup, and all my other guys are having a great season on the golf course. Wendel was only three over yesterday!"



Lanny McDonald

The Leafs, recent Stanley Cup winners - victorious in 1967 - are proud that one of their offspring may soon finally maybe be wearing a ring comparable to Wayne

Gretzky's many.

"He may be playing for another, obscure team now, but it is for sure that Lanny got his skill and finesse and leadership abilities when he was playing for Toronto," said Leaf Coach George Armstrong.

Veteran Leaf Borje Salming agreed. "Ja visst ar Lanny en underbar spelare, men han var aldrig sjuk och han korde bil riktigt duktigt också nar han var i centrum av universen - Toronto," said Salming.

McDonald spent almost seven seasons with the Maple Leafs, playing in 477 games, scoring 219 goals and 240 assists, and receiving 372 minutes in penalties. In 1977, he was named to the second All-Star team. Word has it that he done okay playing for Calgary as well.

"People were upset when we traded Lanny to Colorado but in the long-run, it's a good thing. He going to win us a Stanley Cup isn't he," said Ballard.

Depending on the results of last night's game, Calgary only needs to beat Vancouver once or twice more (which of course they will do) to win their division semi-final. Then Lanny and his teammates only have to beat a few other teams to win the Cup.

actually for Ontario.

Wayne Greazy, a hockey player for the Lost Angles Chicken Wings hockey team said "I was disappointed that they did not wake me up. A new category for myself and my work on the team is just being taken too personally. I love hockey, and I think that I will just forget about casting my vote for myself next year."

Len Lather, a hockey coach for the Edmonton Boilers is not about to let this little mishap get in the way of winning the next Oscar. "I know that I will come out a winner and we will be better off without an Oscar this year. They cost too much any way."

## Dr. Ballard, we presume?

BY BRENT PLAYNE

The Grope and Flail

Toronto Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard received a honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto yesterday.

Despite receiving the generous reward, Dr. Ballard was in no mood for celebrating. He was still down on his Maple Leafs, who finished last in the hapless Norris Division.

"Now that I'm Dr. Ballard, I can say that my team is playing like dog food and everyone will

believe it," the Leafs owner said in his acceptance speech. "I think it's high time this team had less gravy and a lot fewer chewy chunks of meat. When I was their age, me and King (Clancy) would feed our dogs fish bones and water."

"Those dogs had fire in their eyes. They had a zest for life because they were always hungry. The Leafs don't give a damn whether they win or not, just as long as they get their money," Dr. Ballard said.



Harold Ballard

Dr. Ballard was later more humble when he thanked the university for the honorary degree.

"Now that I have a doctorate of laws I can negotiate on an equal footing with that SOB (Allan) Eagleson. I also won't have to hire those fancy dressed lawyers fresh out of the U of T who bilk you out of your life savings. You never know when you have to change your will. Oh yeah, thank you," said Dr. Ballard.



They were throwing dog food at Maple Leaf Gardens.





# REPORT ON BUSINESS

28th DULL YEAR, NO. 6,792 ■ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989



## McFacts about McFree McTrade

BY PETER OUT

The Grope and Flail

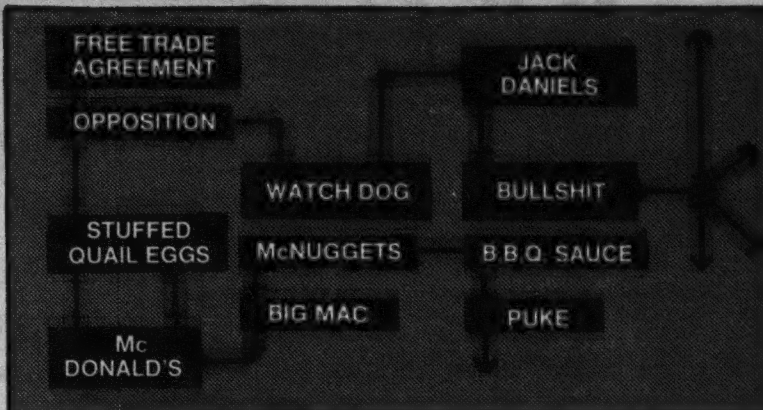
As a result of the recent buying, selling and merging of major corporations in Canada, it is now realized that companies and business organizations were actually wrapping up an unprecedented campaign to persuade employees and the public that a free-trade agreement with almost any other industrialized country is essentially for the benefit of the people on Wall Street and on Bay Street.

This information comes to the *Grope and Flail* via our terribly inaccurate system of Enirvonics

Research.

Everyone involved in the debate agrees that the bashful business sector has taken on its highest profile since 1911, when it took up arms in favor of protectionism and against a reciprocity agreement negotiated with the United States by Sir Wilhemia Laurier.

The normally bashful business community has gone to the wall over the free-trade issue and bashed its head. Since opposition to the deal, which was negotiated by the Conservative government, and both booed and cheered on by Liberal Leader John Turn-



about, there have been several major changes and takeovers in the business world.

Most notably, inside sources say there has been a widespread belief that the business community actually enjoys the attention, the newly formed class distinctions, and they may attempt to form their own government with the help of businessmen Jack Daniels and clown Ronald McDonald.

The demand for Big Mac hamburgers, sold at McDonald restaurants has increased as a result of the deal, according to another poll done by the terribly inaccurate Enirvonics Research group. More people are also requesting the barbecue sauce to go with their Chicken McNuggets.

"Believe me because I am from the East, the changes are largely due to the free-trade deal, and that more people are aware of McDonalds now," said Mabel Appleyard, a Carleton University professor of political studies. "I am even switching sauces! Lord knows I used to be a die hard mustard user."

The hottest topic in town is the switch from skin diving in the North Atlantic ocean to the Saint Lawrence Seaway. Due to the free-trade deal, more and more

people are requesting the Seaway over other waterways, "just because it is closer to Ottawa and not as oily," said Thomas Thimble, a professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario.

"Most of the people in the east just do not give a darn about anything that is happening west of Ottawa any way, so I really think that the whole free-trade thing is just for all those guys in suits and Gucci shoes in Ontario. I mean the only guy in the west who knows how to dress right is Glen Lather any way. That's what I think, any way," stated McGill University student of fashion economics Jodie Lollipop.

Well, now the debates in the House of Commons have changed direction. The Opposition is now basically serving a watch dog against the free-trade agreement instead of their usual stuffed quail eggs. Debates have risen over the issue of whether to be trendy and eat at McDonalds or to remain with the watch dog. Animal rights groups are opposed to the watch dog, but that is another story.

Nevertheless, free trade is here to stay and the rest of the country will have to learn to eat watch dog and barbecue sauce and skin dive in a non-oily water body.

### INSIDE

Toronto is boom-boom-booming. More about our wonderful city in the rest of the business section. Pages B1-B58.

### TORONTO BUSINESS

East of Wonderland there is despondency and cod fishing—precious else, of course, but lots of cod. Pages B1-B100.

### EAST-OF-TORONTO

West of Toronto there is nothing this side of Cathay. The latest attraction in West Toronto is West Edmonton Mall, named for the suburb of Toronto in which it stands. Pages B1-B1000.

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## Personals

Riverdale High School in Pierrefond, Quebec is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a reunion bash, Saturday, May 13. All former students are invited. For information and registration forms, please contact: Riverdale High School 25th Anniversary Reunion, 5080 Sources Blvd., Pierrefonds, Quebec H8Y 8E4. ATTN: JOHN ALLEN, or call (514)684-9920.

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## Useless suburb now beach for gleeful Torontonians

BY MATTHEW FISHING

The Grope and Flail

## WINNIPEG

During what has been called the great Toronto "beach-grab", Torontonians lined up yesterday to purchase beach-front property created by the recent earthquake.

Miles and miles of virgin beach, running from Winnipeg to Churchill, became available to Torontonians after outermost regions of

Toronto — Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan — slid into the Pacific ocean.

Realestate officials reported that Toronto businessmen have already purchased 90 percent of the area.

"If you had this property yesterday, your net worth went up 300 percent in 24 hours," said Toronto real estate tycoon Ronald Trumpcard.

"And not only that you got yourself one hell of a beach," said Trumpcard. "Having a beach for Toronto is a great idea. Real entrepreneurs should have thought of it sooner."

However, the beach grab has also caused a stampede in local land prices. Oceanside views in Winnipeg, west of Toronto, were supposedly selling for 300 and 400 times their original price, while Churchill — north of Yonge street — was quickly auctioned off for an estimated \$75 million, sources said.

"Resorts like Las Vegas and Reno will have to share the spotlight with places like The Pas and Lake Winnipegosis," said

Toronto real estate official Gordon Gekko called the quake a "brilliant business move" that will shake up a "stagnant Toronto housing market."

"The land was useless before," he said. "All you could do was grow stuff. The chief export of the western Ontario region was wheat, an edible investment that was a risky proposition."

"Now Torontonians have the opportunity to invest in important goods, like hotels and resorts. Because let's face it, food is a dying industry."

Gekko, who has purchased land that stretches from Lower Ft. Garry to Flin Flon, plans on starting up a Club Med near the scenic village of Portage la Prairie.

Meanwhile, the beach-grab has also put into motion plans to re-climatize Toronto.

Following yesterday's quake and resulting real estate scramble, prime minister Myron Baloney promised emergency funding to Environment Canada. Plans include shifting the Earth's present axis so the equator runs through Toronto.

"This will be our government's number one priority," said Baloney. "Who cares if Canada goes bankrupt twenty years from now. The weather doesn't care how rich you are when it's 40 below. We all freeze the same."

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